

PUBLIC EDUCATION BULLETIN



PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AT HARRISBURG, FOR INFORMATION OF BOARDS OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, AND INTERESTED CITIZENS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2904D OF THE SCHOOL LAWS

VOLUME I

APRIL, 1934

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Plan For Citizens' Conference

As a climax to the Public School Centennial observance a Citizens' Conference on Problems in Education is planned in connection with the annual Pennsylvania Education Congress in Harrisburg, October 10 and 11. At that time it is proposed to discuss the many critical problems facing education in Pennsylvania. The conference is designed to be similar in nature to that held recently at Ohio State University.

In preparation for this conference the various school and interested lay organizations are urged to organize and develop study groups which will bring to the conference the best thought of the citizens of the Commonwealth upon problems of public education. Such groups should be organized during the spring months and be prepared to send delegates to the Citizens' Conference in the fall. The preliminary interest might well be the development of a program of education in keeping with present economical and social conditions and needs. The work of these groups may well center around such problems as:

1. What are the basic principles underlying our program of universal education?
2. To what extent is the State responsible for and justified in making expenditures for public education?
3. What are the points of strength and weakness in Pennsylvania's program of public education?
4. What are valid objectives for elementary and secondary education? Adult education? Higher education?
5. What educational program should be developed for communities in the State to meet the varying needs of Pennsylvania's boys and girls and our citizens generally?
6. What plans and programs for the intimate study and adjustment of individual pupils should be set up by the school and allied organizations?
7. What principles should govern the organization of public schools in Pennsylvania? Is the present organization satisfactory? If not, how can it be modified to conform to valid principles of education?
8. What principles should govern the financing of public schools in Pennsylvania? Are present plans economically sound? If not, what steps should be taken to bring the financing of public education in Pennsylvania in line with sound principles of finance?

Latest reports on the status of emergency education activities in Pennsylvania indicate that Federal emergency relief funds are being used to great advantage in fifty-nine counties. More than 1600 teachers have been given employment and more than 90,000 men and women are enrolled in day and evening classes in 165 different subjects or activities.

INJURIOUS PRACTICE

Democracy maintains free public schools for just one purpose—to provide competent, loyal citizens. Public schools are not supported by the taxes of all the people to provide anyone with a job.

The action of an increasing number of school boards in dismissing competent non-resident teachers in favor of local candidates has little to commend it.

In times of economic stress the pressure frequently is strong to appoint local candidates to school positions without due regard to the effect of such a policy upon the quality of the educational work of the schools.

Teaching competence should be the sole qualification of an applicant for a teaching position. And certainly no school board should attempt to set up a quarantine against new ideas.

JAMES N. RULE

Superintendent

Centennial Theme Suggested For Commencement Programs

Promotion and commencement exercises in Pennsylvania schools this year will be based on the Centennial theme. It is especially appropriate that every school should take the opportunity at commencement time to place before the community the progress which has been made during the one-hundred-year period. Some of the plans for promotion and commencement exercises will stress:

1. A History of Public Education in the district and State shown through pageants, papers, discussions, etc.
2. Plans for honoring individuals in the community and State who have made significant contributions to public education.
3. Study in the school of the needs and purposes of public education. In many communities this study will culminate in an appropriate commencement program.
4. Collections of historical materials for display during the commencement season, both literary materials and museum materials.

The Department of Public Instruction offers assistance through its bulletins, "One Hundred Years of Free Public Schools in Pennsylvania," and "Promotion and Commencement Exercises in Elementary and Secondary Schools."

The following changes in district superintendents were made prior to the elections of April 10: M. W. Garrette is now superintendent of the Hazle Township Schools, Hazleton, succeeding Joseph B. Gabrio; and Hobson C. Wagner was made superintendent of the Hollidaysburg Borough School District, effective February 19, 1934.

School Centennial Is Observed

Pennsylvania Education Week, April 1 to 7, set aside for celebration of the 100th anniversary of the signing of the State's common schools law, was observed by the Department of Public Instruction with appropriate programs in the Forum of the Education Building on April 3 and 4. Audiences totaling 4500 people were taken over educational trails started a century ago. Events surrounding public school beginnings were pictured, customs that lived with the schools in days gone by were revived, and old and modern instructional methods were vividly contrasted through dramatization and pageantry.

General observance of the free school anniversary started during Pennsylvania Education Week in scores of school districts of the State and is being observed by others during the spring months. State-wide observance is planned to close with a Citizens' Conference on Education during the annual Education Congress in Harrisburg on October 10 and 11. The entire celebration commemorates the signing by Governor Wolf of the Common Schools Law on April 1, 1834.

Forty-one of the 231 living retired teachers with half a century or more of service in the public schools were special guests of the Department at the celebration. More than thirty were at the opening session Tuesday evening and stood while the audience applauded and sang "Auld Lang Syne" in tribute to the splendid records of these "50-year" teachers.

The opening session included the reading of an appropriate and encouraging message from Governor Pinchot, sent to Dr. Rule from Long Keys, Florida. Mrs. Pinchot, as the Governor's representative for the occasion, outlined Pennsylvania's contributions to the nation and declared "the same reactionary interests," whose narrow views retarded the founding of free schools a century ago, exist today and are blocking broader school advantages now. Superintendent Rule spoke on "Education in Pennsylvania in Retrospect and Prospect." The presiding officer for this occasion was Senator Warren R. Roberts, of Northampton County, who was sponsor of the joint resolution providing for observance of the anniversary, approved by Governor Pinchot May 11, 1931.

During Dr. Rule's address he introduced the group of retired teachers who had served the public schools for fifty years or more, and other special guests. These included the only living former Superintendents of Public Instruction, Dr. David J. Waller, Jr., Superintendent from 1889 to 1893, Dr. Francis B. Haas, Superintendent from 1925 to 1927,

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WHY FEDERAL AID?

Pennsylvania stands in need of Federal aid for public education for two reasons:

1. Pennsylvania's outworn system of taxation and school support, which places 85 per cent of the cost of public schools upon realty, has broken down with a serious threat to the maintenance of the public schools of the State during this next school year. Conservative estimates of loss of local revenues this current year place this loss at not less than \$30,000,000 out of a normal local tax revenue of approximately \$140,000,000.

2. In terms of her educational load, that is, the number of children of school age, Pennsylvania ranks twenty-sixth in wealth and seventeenth in income as compared with the other states of the Nation. Every fourth person in our population is of school age. Moreover, Pennsylvania's prosperity depends upon the prosperity of the heavy industries, agriculture, and mining. All of these industries have been laggards in the progress of national recovery.

It will not be possible to revise our State system of taxation and school support in time to meet the emergency in 1934-35. Unless some such emergency aid is extended it will be impossible to maintain the public schools of Pennsylvania for the full legal term without a serious curtailment of school services and an unjustifiable reduction of teachers' salaries. Such a reduction of educational services and of teachers' salaries would not only be detrimental to recovery, but also give the schools of Pennsylvania a serious set-back.

SUMMER ROUND-UP

At this season of the year, attention of thousands of Pennsylvania parents is centered on the health of their own children who will enter school for the first time next September. However, this interest is not just a personal one but involves the interests of the community as well. It is a real contribution to community welfare to send to the entering grade of school next September a group of children free from remediable health handicaps. Health is the most important factor in life and starting to school is one of the most important events of a child's life.

In addition to its social implications, the removal of health handicaps becomes espe-

cially important economically because it reduces absences due to illness with its consequent lessening of the number of repeaters; paves the way for better work and is a very definite factor in general school discipline.

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers has systematized the pre-school examinations thru its "Summer Round-Up," and I trust every teacher and responsible supervisory officer will cooperate to the fullest extent in the promotion of this program so that through the detection and correction of health handicaps, each child may enter school properly equipped to meet its responsibilities and to accept its opportunities on an equal basis with all others.

PUBLIC EDUCATION once more congratulates Dr. Carmon Ross, supervising principal of the Doylestown Public Schools. The recently elected president of the Pennsylvania State Education Association has been chosen as president of the State Teachers College at Edinboro to succeed Dr. C. C. Crawford in August. Edinboro gains a highly qualified, thorough, and energetic leader in the acceptance of Doctor Ross.

JAMES N. RULE

Thirteen Counties Report New County Superintendents

Changes in county superintendents in thirteen counties are announced unofficially from a check on newspaper reports following the elections on April 10. The official list of changes in county and district superintendencies will be announced in the next issue of PUBLIC EDUCATION. The following changes are reported in county superintendencies:

Adams, J. F. Slaybaugh succeeds W. Raymond Shank; Armstrong, J. A. Meehline succeeds C. M. Heilman; Beaver, E. D. Davidson succeeds W. G. Lambert; Elk, O. G. F. Bonnert succeeds J. W. Sweeney; Forest, Frank Watson succeeds Neil Kunselman; Franklin, R. G. Mowery succeeds J. L. Finafrock; Juniata, S. M. Short succeeds S. W. McClure; Northumberland, Charles E. Hilbish succeeds George L. Swank; Snyder, Frank S. Attinger succeeds Ira G. Sanders; Somerset, Guy H. Hartman succeeds W. H. Kretchman; Susquehanna, F. A. Frear succeeds F. H. Taylor; Tioga, Edward F. Marvin succeeds J. G. March; and Wyoming, Edwin H. Kehrli succeeds John Morgan, deceased.

Vocational Conference

The Department of Public Instruction announces a "vocational week" to be held at State College, June 25 to 29. The twenty-second annual Vocational Conference will be held June 25 to 27, and the Future Farmers' Week will be held June 27 to 29.

The conference will have for its theme "The Contribution of Vocational Education to Social and Economic Reconstruction." There will be a general meeting Monday afternoon, and Tuesday will be devoted to sectional meetings in agriculture, home economics, industrial education and rehabilitation. An attractive program has been arranged for the annual Future Farmers' Week to follow.

Graduates of 204 colleges and universities are among the teachers of Pennsylvania's emergency education classes.

The seventh annual state-wide competition sponsored by the Pennsylvania Forensic League will terminate in the final program to be held in Johnstown, Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28.

Education Calendar

1934

April

- 27—Arbor and Bird Day.
- 27-28—Pennsylvania Forensic and Music League, Seventh Annual State Contests, Johnstown.
- 30-May 2—Institute for Education by Radio, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

May

- 1—Child Health Day.
- 4-5—State Home Economics Association, Pittsburgh.
- 4-5—Second Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association, Harrisburg.
- 13-19—Thirty-eighth Annual Convention, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, Des Moines, Iowa.
- 18—World Goodwill Day.
- 19—Vocational and Industrial Arts Conference, State Teachers College, California.
- 23-25—Annual Conference of Trade and Industrial Group, Pittsburgh.

- June 13-14—Secondary Education Conference, State Teachers College, Indiana.
- June 25-27—Annual Vocational Conference, State College.
- June 27-29—Future Farmers of America, State College.
- June 30-July 6—N.E.A. Convention, Washington, D. C.
- July 31-Aug. 1-2—Superintendent's Conference, Pennsylvania State College.
- Oct. 4-5—Central Convention District, P. S. E. A., Lock Haven.
- Oct. 10-11—Education Congress and Citizens' Conference on Education, Harrisburg.
- Oct. 11-13—Pennsylvania Library Association, Hershey.
- Oct. 19—Northwestern Convention District, P.S.E.A., Oil City.
- Oct. 19-20—Western Convention District, P.S.E.A., and Western Pennsylvania Education Conference, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh.
- Oct. 19-20—Eastern Convention District, P.S.E.A., Pottsville.
- Oct. 26-27—Midwestern Convention District, P.S.E.A., Beaver Falls.
- Nov. 6-12—American Education Week.
- Dec. 5-8—American Vocational Association, Pittsburgh.
- Dec. 26-28—State Convention of P.S.E.A., Harrisburg.

Junior Academy of Science

At a meeting of the science clubs of the schools of the State at Albright College March 30 and 31, a Junior Academy of Science was organized. More than 100 pupils and club sponsors were present. A program was presented by students of high school science clubs. Officers were elected for the coming year. This meeting was held in conjunction with the Senior Academy. Action was taken by the senior group to sponsor the Junior organization. Since the meeting other clubs have expressed a desire to become affiliated. More details of the plan can be obtained from Karl F. Oerlein, High School, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania.

This effort on the part of the Senior Science Academy is in line with the best thought in connection with youth groups. The participation of young men and women from Pennsylvania secondary schools in these annual meetings will be worth while and should lead to significant and abiding interests in the field of science.

Public Education In Review

Frank statements of the "deepening crisis" faced by public schools of Pennsylvania in their centennial year were given by Dr. James N. Rule, Superintendent of Public Instruction, as the Department opened its two-day observance of the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Common Schools Law. Federal aid was mentioned by the Superintendent as one possible way out of the serious emergency brought to many school districts through unexpectedly heavy reductions in local tax collections.

In his review of "Education in Pennsylvania in Retrospect and Prospect," Superintendent Rule said defeats and disappointments suffered by school workers "sink into the background as we note the milestones that mark school progress to ever richer and higher levels of excellence and public service." The free school act ended pauper schools and marked the beginning of realization of William Penn's plan of universal education, he added.

Public school history and customs were reviewed. The earliest constitution of the State paved the way for free schools and Governor Wolf's insistence helped to found them 100 years ago. Various acts of the Legislature provided for operation of public schools, though in a somewhat disjointed way until the constitution of 1873 was adopted. Under impetus of this measure which definitely stated that "the General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public schools wherein all the children of this Commonwealth above the age of six years may be educated" public schools made rapid progress.

Following this there was a gradual increase of minimum school term from three to eight months for elementary schools and to nine months for high schools. Other improvements included compulsory attendance laws, free textbooks, establishment of free high schools, development of State normal schools for preparation of teachers, creation of the college and university council, now the State Council of Education, passage of the school code in 1911, and increases in State subsidies to school districts in 1921.

Thirty Millions Short

In discussing the present day school situation and its relation to the future, Dr. Rule said with the collapse of real estate values and tax revenues accruing therefrom there has come in many areas a near-collapse of local sources of school support. He said it is estimated the shortage this year will amount to approximately \$30,000,000 out of a normal annual school tax collection of approximately \$140,000,000. Some districts face a 75 per cent reduction in tax collections.

"Realty cannot continue to bear 85 per cent of the school tax load," he said. "With the collapse in real estate values and tax revenues will come a collapse in our system of public schools, if appropriate remedies are not found soon."

"The regular State school appropriation for the coming year is reduced 20 per cent below the amount available for the current year. An emergency appropriation of \$5,000,000 is available to help distressed school districts which must be used to plug a thirty million dollar hole in local school support."

"These conditions are having a disastrous effect upon the quality of educational oppor-

tunity throughout the State. Diversity of educational opportunity is being reduced rapidly to the few relatively well-to-do districts and even in these it is beginning to be limited. The remedy lies in completion of the following three-point program:

"Restoration and reconstruction of our school program to meet the diverse needs of Pennsylvania's diverse communities;

"Reorganization of school districts on a basis of fiscal and professional competency, so as to reduce local inequalities as between school districts to support and administer public education adequately and competently.

"Revision of our State system of school support so as to remove the confiscatory tax load now resting on realty and place the major share of the cost of public education upon sources of taxable income and wealth available only to the State and Federal government."

HIGHER EDUCATION

WESTMINSTER—A radical departure from traditional methods is advocated in a preliminary report of a faculty committee with reference to the organization and curriculum of the college.

DREXEL—Alumni are sponsoring establishment of the Drexel Institute Gift Fund to be used for support of the Student Scholarship Fund, the Matheson Memorial Book Fund, the alumni publication and other projects.

DICKINSON—The law school was founded April 1, 1834, and the centennial anniversary was observed with appropriate exercises on April 6 and 7.

TEMPLE—Complete information is now available concerning the announcement that 43 open scholarships are available to high school students in Pennsylvania.

MILLERSVILLE S.T.C.—A survey of the rural school libraries of Lancaster County has been completed by the Rural Club.

The public school centennial was observed with a pageant by the training school on April 6.

SHIPPENSBURG S.T.C.—In addition to participating in the public school centennial celebration of the Department of Public Instruction, the college observed the anniversary event with reproduction of their share in the program at Shippensburg on April 5 and 6.

SLIPPERY ROCK S.T.C.—An educational pageant in commemoration of the public school centennial was given April 6 on the campus.

CARNEGIE TECH—The annual "open house" will be held Friday, April 27. Fifteen thousand visitors are expected.

GETTYSBURG—In order to insure a better product for the teaching profession the Education Department has undertaken a new procedure for majors in education involving a vote on the students' candidacy for the teaching profession by a committee of his instructors. Each student must pass this committee in order to enroll in the course for student teaching.

PENN STATE—Preliminary steps in making a detailed geographic survey of Pennsylvania have been completed in the School of Mineral Industries.

LOCK HAVEN S.T.C.—Pageants and addresses featured the Public School Centennial observance held during Pennsylvania Education Week.

MORAVIAN—Founders Day on May 4 will observe the centennial of the death of Lafayette. The French Ambassador and others will be guests of the college.

Establish Date of Stevens' Speech

Difficulty has been experienced in establishing the exact date upon which Thaddeus Stevens made his famous speech in defense of free public schools. From the State Library comes the following quotation taken from the *Pennsylvania Reporter and Democratic Herald*, published in Harrisburg, issue of Tuesday, April 14, 1835, which indicates the address was made on Saturday, April 11, 1835:

The School Law

The bill passed the Senate sometime ago, with the repeal of the school bill of last session, and providing for the education of the poor gratis, came up in the House of Representatives on Saturday, and was negated by a large majority. A substitute, offered by Mr. Stevens, which essentially modified the law of 1834, was adopted by a vote of 57 yeas to 30 nays.

Several speeches were delivered during the consideration of this bill in the House, and the gentlemen who took part in the discussion displayed a great deal of eloquent zeal. The speech delivered by Mr. Stevens was peculiarly fine * * *

By reference to the Journals, it is evident that the repeal was under consideration on April 10 and April 11. A study of the legislative action on these two days together with the above extract from the newspaper makes it more than probable that Stevens' speech was delivered on April 11, although it is impossible to make this a definite, absolute statement. However, until other evidence is adduced, it will be more or less correct to use the date, April 11.

Historical Association Meetings Will Attract Teachers

The Pennsylvania Historical Association is particularly anxious to have teachers of history in secondary schools attend their second annual meeting in Harrisburg, May 4 and 5. An entire section of the Saturday morning program is to be devoted to "The Teaching of Pennsylvania History in the Public Schools," with Dr. W. F. Dunaway, Pennsylvania State College, as chairman. Papers will be presented by A. P. James, University of Pittsburgh, and A. O. Rohrbach, William Penn High School, Harrisburg, on "Significance of State and Local History in the Public Schools" and "Aspects of Pennsylvania History Which Should Be Considered in the Social Studies Program." Short reports will be given on "State and Local History Projects Developed by Pennsylvania Secondary Schools."

The Saturday evening dinner meeting is to be in observance of the 100th anniversary of the signing of the free school law of Pennsylvania. Speakers will be Frederick A. Godcharles, Milton, "Pennsylvania Schools One Hundred Years Ago"; James Mulhern, University of Pennsylvania, "The Establishment and Growth of the Public School System of Pennsylvania;" and Dr. James N. Rule, Superintendent of Public Instruction, "Some Educational Problems at the Beginning of the Second One Hundred Years." The meetings start Friday afternoon in the Senate Caucus Room and teachers are welcome to attend all sessions.

SCHOOL CENTENNIAL IS OBSERVED

(Concluded from Page 1)

and Dr. Carmon Ross president of the Pennsylvania State Education Association.

Greetings in absentia were extended by vote of the audience to David B. Oliver, whose service as a school director in Pittsburgh extends over a period of sixty-two years. An appropriate message was dispatched from the meeting to Mr. Oliver who will be 100 years of age in October.

Shippensburg Players Participate

Much of the credit for success of the celebration goes to the faculty and students of the State Teachers College at Shippensburg who staged the dramatizations and pageants for the two evening programs. Splendid performances were arranged by Dr. Albert Lindsay Rowland, president of the college with the most efficient assistance of the Misses Edna Arnold, Mary E. York, Marion H. Blood, Mr. S. S. Shearer, and others. Members of the Department staff collaborated through preparation of manuscripts for the plays. The Harrisburg William Penn High School Orchestra cooperated in the Tuesday evening program under the direction of F. William Froelich.

The signing and defense of the Free School Act was presented in two episodes by Shippensburg students. The players showed difficulties incurred by founders of the public schools. Dramatization of the signing of the act in the office of Governor Wolf showed the great interest of the Chief Executive of that day in the need for free schools and also emphasized the activities of Samuel Breck, wealthy Philadelphia merchant and former Congressman, who was chairman of the Senate committee that drafted the Common Schools Law. In the second episode the players presented a scene one year later through reproduction of the session of the Legislature in which defeat of the act of 1834 was averted largely through the efforts of Thaddeus Stevens.

In recognition of a tradition of other days in rural school communities, an old-fashioned spelling bee was held as a feature of the program on April 4. Forty-nine entrants, each declared the winner in county spelling bees held for purposes of elimination, reported for the State championship bee. After the first two hours twenty spellers remained in their places and another hour and a half at the afternoon session determined the winner, William T. Baldwin, Jr., of Lebanon. Each entrant was presented with a Thaddeus Stevens medal provided by Mrs. Benjamin C. Atlee, of Millersville. They were appropriately made up for the occasion and the winner received a parchment scroll engrossed by C. Valentine Kirby, chief of art education in the Department. This State-wide event brought highly favorable comment and had the effect of creating new interest in local school activities. It was in charge of Dr. Lee L. Driver, chief of the Department's rural schools division, assisted by a committee of county superintendents and Dr. C. D. Koch, former Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Another feature of the Wednesday program was an old-fashioned singing school directed by Dr. Johann Blose, of Lebanon, who gave the customary drill used in singing schools of half a century ago, including tonal and rhythmic exercises, note reading, syllable work, and concert singing. Most members of the class were elderly people who attended such sessions in the schools and churches of rural communities years ago. This part of the program was directed by M. Claude Rosenberry, chief of music education in the Department.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

The following message from Governor Pinchot, then at Long Key, Florida, to Superintendent Rule was read at the opening program of the Department's celebration of the public school centennial:

I am deeply sorry that I cannot help to celebrate with you Pennsylvania's public school centenary. If my record shows nothing else it shows that I appreciate fully the importance of adequate school support and especially the necessity for a State income tax to help the schools. We have no asset that compares with our children. They should be guaranteed full educational opportunity at the expense of those who can afford to pay for it instead of at the cost of those who cannot.

I am heartily in favor not only of a State income tax but of Federal aid to schools. At the same time we need a far more economical unit of school organization. Our people can be saved great sums by it with no loss of educational opportunity to the children. The public good comes first and the first consideration of the public welfare is the children.

Good luck to you all.

GIFFORD PINCHOT

Dramatization of a school session of 100 years ago opened the final evening program. School room furniture of the period was borrowed from the Pennsylvania State Museum. This was staged by the Shippensburg State Teachers College and included two episodes, "Letting the School," and "Teaching the School," witnessed by more than 1800 people. In "A School of Today" the college presented a unit from the history curriculum in the campus training school.

As a further presentation of the modern school instructional methods the college presented an exposition of phases of the secondary school curriculum with the assistance of the pupils of the Shippensburg and Camp Hill high schools. These included demonstrations in agriculture, citizenship, industrial arts, physical education, music, home economics and art, the latter by students of the college.

Public schools will continue with the centennial celebration through the spring months. In many schools a definite objective is being established by making the anniversary the theme for commencement and promotional exercises in June. In scores of communities special demonstrations and pageants are planned. Pittsburgh presented a pageant in January and substantial contributions were made by junior high school pupils of Philadelphia at the annual convention of the State Education Association, and by high schools of Delaware County at the annual Schoolmen's Week and southeastern convention of the State Education Association in Philadelphia in March. The Philadelphia schools plan educational events culminating in an immense assembly program in Convention Hall on May 8. Various other cities and colleges are cooperating in the general celebration plan and one county, Schuylkill, is to have a county-wide pageant on three days, May 30, 31 and June 1.

The Federal Office of Education announces that a National Conference on the Education of Negroes will be held in Washington, D.C., May 9-12.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Competitive examinations for State Council of Education scholarships in each county or senatorial district of the State will be conducted at county seats under the supervision of county superintendents on Friday, May 4. Each scholarship provides \$400 toward a four-year college course in a Pennsylvania institution of higher learning. They are not to be confused with Senatorial Scholarships over which the Department has no jurisdiction.

Nine applications from Pennsylvania teachers in competition for the annual Nathan C. Schaeffer memorial scholarship had been received by April 15, the closing date, by the Department of Public Instruction. The scholarship, amounting to \$600 for graduate study, is to be awarded by the State Council of Education at its May meeting.

The Department reminds that one scholarship is awarded annually to a graduate of an accredited Pennsylvania high school by the Colorado School of Mines and the Michigan College of Mining and Technology. Information may be obtained from superintendents and high school principals.

Gorgas Essay Contest

Essays submitted by juniors and seniors Pennsylvania high schools in the annual Gorgas Memorial Institute contest are being tabulated for transmittal to the State Judges. Pennsylvania entries in this national contest in recent years have not come up to expectations. The prize this year is \$500 for the best essay on the subject "Past Benefits and Future Importance to Man of the Control of Disease Bearing Mosquitoes." The State prize is \$10.00 and the high school prize is a bronze Gorgas Medallion. Richard J. Beamish, Secretary of the Commonwealth, is one of the Pennsylvania judges for this year.

Instructional Item

Social studies teachers will find very helpful the bibliography of Pennsylvania History for high school teachers prepared by Professor W. F. Dunaway which appeared in the January issue of *Pennsylvania History*, the official organ of the Pennsylvania Historical Association. The bibliography lists the general histories of Pennsylvania, works on local and sectional history, descriptive and miscellaneous works, references on economic history, cultural history, religious history, racial history, military history, and government and politics.

Copies of the January number of the magazine may be obtained by writing to Doctor Arthur C. Bining, Editor, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Centennial Publications

Additional copies of the March issue, the centennial edition of the **PUBLIC EDUCATION BULLETIN**, and of the programs for the Department's observance of the Public School Centennial are available and may be had upon request to the Department.

A limited supply of pamphlets containing the complete address of Thaddeus Stevens in defense of the free school act is available and copies of this also may be had on request to the Department.

The booklet *100 Year's of Free Public Schools in Pennsylvania*, has been distributed to teachers through county and district superintendents.